

BOROUGH  of CHARD

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# Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1947

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### **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:**

#### **Medical Officer of Health:**

P. P. FOX,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., to 30/8/47

DR. J. M. AITKEN,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., from 1/9/47

#### **Sanitary Inspector:**

P. H. WEBB,  
M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

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To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the  
Borough of Chard.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Chard. In view of the fact that I did not commence my duties until September, a good deal of the work recorded in this report was directed by Dr. P. P. Fox. I have therefore refrained from making any major alterations in its form.

Shortage of housing accommodation still remains the most serious health problem in the borough. The situation has of course been aggravated by the setting up in the town of new industries, and the resultant increase in the number of people in lodgings. It is to be regretted that thirty-one houses upon which demolition orders have been made are still occupied and are in a very bad state of repair. Likewise the army huts in use as dwelling houses at Furnham Camp is to be strongly deprecated. They are in such a state of disrepair that it is not possible to make them habitable at reasonable expense. Sanitation generally is of a very low standard and it is my considered opinion that the continued existence of this camp constitutes a danger to the health of the community. It is to be hoped that when the National economic situation improves the efforts of the Council and its officials to obtain permission to erect more houses will prove fruitful. During the year 14 houses were erected.

As the industrial population of the town increases, the extra strain imposed upon the existing out of date method of sewage disposal becomes acute. The preliminary arrangements for the new scheme are well under way and it is to be hoped that work will commence during 1948.

During the months of September-November there was a sharp but small outbreak of measles affecting principally children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. Thanks to modern therapy no cases required admission to hospital and there were no serious complications. Apart from this there was no other serious outbreak of infectious disease and generally speaking the health of the town is of a very high standard.

I have to thank the Mayor and members of the Council for their confidence and support, also my fellow officials for their assistance. In particular, I wish to convey my thanks to Mr. Webb and my secretary, Mrs. Brooks, for their assistance in the compilation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. AITKEN.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	...	...	1,030 Acres
Registrar-General's estimate of			
(a) Resident Population, mid-1947			
(b) Average Population appropriate to the calculation of the death rates			4,743
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	...	...	1,444
Rateable Value	...	...	£29,330
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£112

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	...	94	51 43
Illegitimate	...	4	1 3
Still Births—Legitimate	...	1	0 1
Illegitimate	...	0	0 0
Deaths	...	61	38 23
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	21.08
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	...	10.1
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population	...	...	12.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Rate per 1,000 total Births (Live Deaths, and Still).
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	Nil
<b>Death Rate of Infants under one Year of Age.</b>	
All infants per 1,000 Live Births	30.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	31.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	0
Cancer	5	5
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	6	4
Heart Diseases	9	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	0
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia	1	0
Appendicitis	1	0
Other Digestive Disorders	1	0
Nephritis	0	1
Premature Birth	1	1
Birth Injuries and Malformations	1	0
Suicide	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents	0	2
Other Violent Causes	0	1
All Other Causes	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services of the Area.

1. (a) Medical Officer of Health. Dr. J. M. Aitken succeeded Dr. P. P. Fox as Medical Officer of Health on September 1st, 1947.
- (b) Sanitary Inspector. Mr. A. G. Phelps continues to assist Mr. Webb in his duties as Sanitary Inspector.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities. No change.
- (b) Ambulance Facilities. No change.
- (c) Clinic and Treatment Centres. No new Centres have been opened.
- (d) Nursing in the Home. Nurse Tonge and Nurse Roylance continue their good work as District Nurses.
- (e) Hospitals. No change.
- (f) Nursery School. The War Time Day Nursery was reopened as a Nursery School by the County Council in April, 1947. Children from 2-5 years are admitted. Mothers of many of these children are employed in whole or part-time employment in the town.

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water Supplies.**—The town has two main supplies at high and low level. In times of drought these supplies are not wholly adequate. Both supplies are of satisfactory quality and both are chlorinated. It is proposed to supplement the High Level supply. The yield of Well "A" (Great Crow Close) is only just enough for the present consumption.

No. of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains (estimated population 4,743) ... ..	1,394
Supplied direct to houses ... ..	1,116
By means of stand pipes ... ..	278

#### Other Supplies :—

One private well supplies 23 houses.  
Samples of water taken from public supplies for Bacteriological examination in 1947 :  
5, all satisfactory.

2. **Drainage and Sewerage.**—Repairs only.  
A scheme has been prepared for the reconstruction of the Sewerage Works and is under review by the Ministry. The present works are out of date and not capable of dealing with the volume of sewerage received at the works.
3. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**  
Drainage Tests and Inspections :—
 

Tests ... ..	51
Inspections ... ..	19
Houses Disinfected ... ..	14
Dairies and Cowsheds inspections ...	16
Water Samples Taken ... ..	9
4. **Schools.**—No change.

## SECTION D.

### Housing Inspections.

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... .. 31
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 69
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) of the above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932 ... .. 0
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 0
- (c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ... .. 0
3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 0
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 0

### Housing Action.

- (a) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... .. 0
- (b) Number of Houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ... .. 0

**Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.**  
Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... .. 0

### Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 13
- (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices ... .. 13

**Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936** ... .. 0

**Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936** ... .. 0

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Number of Producers on the Register ...                   | 7 |
| Number of Producers on the Register divided as follows :— |   |
| (1) Distributors only ... ..                              | 0 |
| (2) Distributors who are also Producers                   | 4 |

#### Meat and Other Foods.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Number of Slaughter Houses Licensed ... | 1 |
|---|---|

#### Government Slaughter House.

337 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

Regular visits have been made to the shops. Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

#### Adulteration.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Local action taken ... .. | 0 |
|---------------------------|---|



## SECTION F.

### Infectious Diseases.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following inoculations were given during 1947 :—

1st and 2nd.	3rd.
Under 5 years.	5-14 years.
43	0
	4

#### Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Admitted		
	Cases Notified.	to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	22	1	0
Measles ...	196	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	1	0
Oph. Neonatorum ...	1	0	0
Pneumonia ...	5	0	0
Erysipelas ...	2	0	0

#### Analysis of the Total Cases Notified.

	Under 1 yr.									
	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 years.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	1	3	1	4	2	11	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	7	21	22	43	19	78	3	0	1	2
Pneumonia ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0
Oph. Neonatorum ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Respiratory. M. F.	Non-Respiratory. M. F.	Respiratory. M. F.	Non-Respiratory. M. F.
Under 1	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0
5-15	0	0	0	0
15-25	1	0	0	0
25-35	2	2	0	0
35-45	0	2	1	0
45-55	1	0	0	0
55-65	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	0	0
Total	6	2	1	0

Total New Cases 12. Deaths 1.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

### Part 1 of the Act.

- Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.		Number of Occupiers Inspected.	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.	Cutions.
1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	31	46	5	Nil
11.—Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	19	30	Nil	Nil
Total	50	76	5	Nil

- Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	No. of cases in which prosecuted.				
		Referred To By HM Inspector.	Referred To By HM Inspector.	Referred To By HM Inspector.	Referred To By HM Inspector.	Referred To By HM Inspector.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	3	2	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	8	7	Nil	2	Nil	Nil

### PART 8 OF THE ACT.

#### Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	No. of out-workers by Sect. 110 (c)	No. of cases in default of supply of lists.		No. of notices served.	
		(1) to Council.	(2) to supply lists.	(3) served.	(4) notices.
Wearing apparel, making, etc. ...	26	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace, lace curtains and nets	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	29	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil